

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Yes, it would absolutely interfere, perhaps even making it next to impossible for most consumers.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Yes. The digital flag seems expressly designed to limit if not end typical consumer uses such as these.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Yes, the broadcast flag would make it impossible to use existing equipment. The current difficulties with older computer and audio components shows exactly the types of problems to be encountered in this area as well.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Most definitely. Any time innovation and competition are stifled, new options for the consumer (as well as better choices and lower prices) are always the victims.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

The cost will undoubtedly rise dramatically. Consumers would be forced to purchase new, more expensive equipment -- if that even becomes available.

Other Comments:

Proponents do not want consumers to have the freedoms and abilities available without the broadcast flag and seem to be looking for a way to monopolize emerging technology. Such a position is blatantly unfair to consumers. The FCC needs to protect U.S. consumers, not the entertainment industry, which is perfectly capable of protecting itself.